



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 29, 2008

S. 3096

A bill to amend the National Cave and Karst Research Institute Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations for the National Cave and Karst Research Institute

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 16, 2008*

S. 3096 would eliminate an existing statutory requirement that any appropriations to the National Cave and Karst Research Institute must be matched with nonfederal funding. Eliminating that requirement would enable the institute to seek grants from other federal agencies (such as the National Science Foundation or the U.S. Geological Survey) without needing to find nonfederal matching funds.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS) and the institute, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3096 would have no significant effect on discretionary spending and no effect on direct spending or revenues. Under the bill, the institute would continue to receive about \$300,000 a year (nearly half of its operating budget) from NPS appropriations. Enacting the bill could enable the institute to compete more successfully for other federal funding, but any new funds that it may receive are already authorized under other statutes and would not increase total spending for those grant programs.

S. 3096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.